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Proof—and indifference

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By Robert Morris

The belated Soviet announcement of Richard Sorge as its wartime spy in Japan and the simultaneous news report that H.A.R. Philby, former British diplomat is now employed by the Moscow press agency, Novosti, should spell out a conclusion that is just not being drawn in the 1964 political campaign.

The United States Senate Internal Security Subcommittee surveyed the activities of the Institute of Pacific Relations in the early fifties. It took the testimony of Maj. Gen. Charles A. Willoughby on his return from duty in Japan. General Willoughby courageously told the Senate that Richard Sorge had headed an international spy ring which, in the summer and fall of 1941, served the Soviet cause by averting a Japanese attack on the USSR in support of the Nazi campaign in Europe. The abuse heaped upon General Willoughby by the press and government officials has rarely been equaled. The fact was that from his vantage point in the German Embassy in Tokyo, Sorge was able to tell Moscow that the vast Japanese military movements southward meant an imminent attack on the United States. Moscow did not alert Washington to the impending Pearl Harbor attack.

At the same time, the Subcommittee brought out that clandestine Soviet collaborators high in our government, including Harry Dexter White, were pressuring Secretary of State Cordell Hull to reject the 90-day truce the Japanese offered. General George C. Marshall and others have acknowledged that, in view of

the German failures in the Moscow campaign in the winter of 1941-2, Japan might not have struck at Pearl Harbor 90-days later, if the truce had been accepted.

Sorge had American confederates, one of whom was Agnes Smedley, who nevertheless was recommended by a high State Department planner as a CIA propagandist in 1949, an effort that was spiked by Lyle H. Munson, now head of The Bookmailer, who was a CIA official at the time. Agnes Smedley later mocked her government defenders by willing her ashes to Chinese Communist General Chou Teh.

H.A.R. Philby, as British M-15 in Washington, in conjunction with Burgess and Maclean, worked incalculable damage to the United States, particularly during the Korean War. They had access to our intimate security secrets and military plans.

Yet, in today's political world, Sorge and Philby are not really branded villains. The acknowledgment of the Sorge spy role comes in a Moscow-dated dispatch that makes him out a sort of legendary hero.

Not only are these important Communists not branded by contemporary historians, but their defenders and past supporters still hold high and respected positions in government, politics, education and the communications fields, and only a handful of people on the Washington scene will publicly acknowledge concern for internal security. (Copyright: U. S. Press Associates, Washington, D. C.)

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